Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6607 INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL NAIROBI 3172

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, KE, UN

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES MAINA AS NEW KENYAN PERM REP TO UN

- 1. AMONG DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED HERE APRIL 16, MOST IMPORTANT WAS NAMING OF CHARLES MAINA, OUT-GOING SECRETARY GENERAL OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, TO REPLACE ODERO-JOWI AS KENYA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN.
- 2. MAINA WAS BORN IN NYERI DISTRICT IN 1931 AND EDUCATED AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, KAMPALA, UNGANDA. PRIOR TO TAKING UP EAC POSITION IN 1971, HE WAS PRINCIPAL OF KENYA INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATION (KIA). HIS EARLIER CAREER WAS ENTIRELY IN FIELD OF EDUCATION, FIRST AS TEACHER, THEN IN 1962 AS DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER FOR EMBU, PROMOTED IN 1963 TO PROVINCIAL EDUCATION OFFICER FOR CENTRAL PROVINCE AND FINALLY TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN 1964 AS ASSISTANT CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER AND IN 1966 AS DEPUTY SECRETARY BEFORE MOVING TO KIA IN 1968.
- 3. COMMENT: MAINA'S APPOINTMENT FOLLOWS THAT OF TWO OTHER KIKUYU TO TOP CIVIL SERVICE POSITIONS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHERE THEY REPLACED NON-KIKUYU: GEORGE MATHEKA, WHO SUCCEEDS DAWSON MLAMBA AS PERMANENT SECRETARY AND C.N. KEBUCHI, WHO REPLACES I.S. BHOI AS DEPUTY SECRETARY. CONFIDENTIAL

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WHILE EMBASSY'S INITIAL IMPRESSION OF BOTH MATHEKA AND KEBUCHI HAS BEEN FAVORABLE, MAINA'S APPOINTMENT DOES

NOT AUGUR WELL FOR KENYA'S IMAGE AT UN. HE IS GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS A TOTAL NONENTITY. ACCORDING TO AID'S REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER IN ARUSHA, MAINA FREQUENTLY CRITICIZED BY EAC STAFF FOR FAILING EITHER TO DO HIS STAFF WORK OR TO PUSH ISSUES TO THEIR CONCLUSION. MAINA'S TASK WILL BE MADE NO EASIER BY FACT THAT OMAR FAKIH, COUNSELLOR OF KENYAN UN MISSION, IS BEING REASSIGNED TO CAIRO AS AMBASSADOR.

4. BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON OTHER FOREIGN OFFICE/DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM. MARSHALL

CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, PINR, KE, UN, (MAINA, CHARLES)
To: STATE

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